

Senate File 2259 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2259
BY HARTSUCH

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to a fall prevention pilot project, including
2 insurance coverage for polypharmacy evaluations, and
3 providing an appropriation.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 514C.26 Polypharmacy evaluation
2 — coverage.

3 1. Notwithstanding the uniformity of treatment requirements
4 of section 514C.6, a contract, policy, or plan providing for
5 third-party payment or prepayment of health or medical expenses
6 shall provide coverage for polypharmacy evaluation. For the
7 purposes of this section, polypharmacy evaluation must include
8 a medication review, the issuance of a medication review
9 report, and patient notification.

10 a. A medication review shall meet all of the following
11 requirements:

12 (1) Is a comprehensive review of a patient's medication list
13 by a licensed pharmacist for the purpose of identifying drugs
14 and drug interactions which might put the patient at risk for
15 falls and other serious medical consequences.

16 (2) Is requested by a licensed health care provider who is
17 authorized to prescribe medications.

18 (3) The patient is seventy years of age or older.

19 (4) The patient is prescribed more than five medications.

20 b. A medication review report shall meet all of the
21 following requirements:

22 (1) Is a report issued by the reviewing pharmacist to the
23 requesting physician and the patient summarizing the findings
24 of the review.

25 (2) Contains the list of medications reviewed, the
26 patient's name and other pertinent identification information,
27 identifies any drug interactions, identifies any dosing
28 abnormalities, and identifies drugs identified as potentially
29 dangerous to the geriatric population.

30 c. A patient notification is the notification provided to
31 the patient in addition to the medication review report and
32 shall include all of the following:

33 (1) An explanation of the medication review.

34 (2) A brief self-evaluation questionnaire used to identify
35 individuals at high risk for falls or other serious medical

1 consequences.

2 (3) Instructions to the patient regarding the role of
3 polypharmacy in causing falls or other serious medical
4 consequences.

5 (4) Locations where the patient may be screened for
6 orthostatic hypotension.

7 (5) Instructions to the patient to seek medical attention
8 if the patient has symptoms that put the patient at risk for
9 falls including but not limited to light-headedness, visual or
10 balance disturbances, or generalized weakness.

11 2. The provisions of this section shall apply to all of the
12 following classes of third-party payment provider contracts,
13 policies, or plans delivered, issued for delivery, continued,
14 or renewed in this state on or after July 1, 2010:

15 a. Individual or group accident and sickness insurance
16 providing coverage on an expense-incurred basis.

17 b. An individual or group hospital or medical service
18 contract issued pursuant to chapter 509, 514, or 514A.

19 c. An individual or group health maintenance organization
20 contract regulated under chapter 514B.

21 d. An individual or group Medicare supplemental policy,
22 unless coverage pursuant to such policy is preempted by federal
23 law.

24 e. A plan established pursuant to chapter 509A for public
25 employees.

26 3. This section shall not apply to accident-only, specified
27 disease, short-term hospital or medical, hospital confinement
28 indemnity, credit, dental, vision, long-term care, basic
29 hospital, and medical-surgical expense coverage as defined
30 by the commissioner, disability income insurance coverage,
31 coverage issued as a supplement to liability insurance,
32 workers' compensation or similar insurance, or automobile
33 medical payment insurance.

34 4. The commissioner of insurance shall adopt rules pursuant
35 to chapter 17A as necessary to administer this section. In

1 addition to any other rules adopted, the commissioner of
2 insurance shall collaborate with the department of public
3 health to adopt rules to require health care providers who
4 request polypharmacy evaluations to report aggregated patient
5 information to the department of public health to enable the
6 department to assess the costs and benefits of polypharmacy
7 evaluations.

8 5. For the purposes of this section, "*polypharmacy*"
9 means the prescribing of multiple medications to a patient
10 by licensed health care providers authorized to prescribe
11 medications and the use of such medications by the patient.

12 Sec. 2. FALL PREVENTION PILOT PROJECT.

13 1. *Purposes.* The department of public health shall
14 establish a fall prevention pilot project. The project shall
15 be principally directed to older individuals, their families
16 and caregivers, and health care professionals. The purposes of
17 the pilot project are to develop effective strategies to reduce
18 the risk of falls among older individuals and to reduce the
19 injuries and costs associated with such falls.

20 2. *Goals.* To the extent practicable the pilot project shall
21 achieve the following goals:

22 a. Increase the awareness among older individuals,
23 physicians, pharmacists, health care professionals,
24 community-based health organizations, and others, of fall risk
25 factors and actions that can reduce falls.

26 b. Implement and evaluate strategies and interventions that
27 are proven effective in reducing falls among older individuals
28 in order to tailor such strategies and interventions to
29 specific populations of older individuals in this state.

30 c. Improve the identification, diagnosis, treatment, and
31 rehabilitation of older individuals who have a high risk of
32 falling and who are fall victims.

33 d. Improve data collection and analysis to identify risk
34 factors for falls and factors that reduce the likelihood of
35 falls.

1 e. Assess the risk of falls occurring in various settings.

2 f. Identify barriers to the adoption of proven interventions
3 with respect to the prevention of falls among older
4 individuals.

5 g. Improve collaboration among the medical community
6 including physicians, health care providers, and pharmacists to
7 reduce the rate of falls among older individuals.

8 h. Improve coordination of existing resources to address
9 fall prevention among older individuals.

10 3. *Elements of pilot project.* The pilot project shall
11 include all of the following:

12 a. The creation of a multidisciplinary task force to
13 coordinate community intervention.

14 b. Development of a plan for community outreach and
15 education relating to all of the following:

16 (1) Physical conditioning and balance.

17 (2) Polypharmacy and its role in causing falls.

18 (3) Techniques for fall prevention and fall recovery.

19 (4) Screening for orthostatic hypotension.

20 c. Development of a plan to demonstrate injury prevention
21 and medical cost savings from intervention, including the
22 polypharmacy evaluation specified in section 514C.26.

23 4. *Implementation.* The department of public health shall
24 select one of the area agencies on aging as designated pursuant
25 to section 231.32 to implement the pilot project for an initial
26 period of three years.

27 5. *Reports.* The department of public health shall provide
28 annual progress reports regarding the pilot project, and
29 shall provide a final report which includes outcomes of the
30 project and recommendations for continuation, expansion,
31 or modification of the pilot project. The department's
32 reports shall include, to the extent available, information
33 collected and analyzed pursuant to section 514C.26 regarding
34 the costs and benefits attributable to the use of polypharmacy
35 evaluations by licensed health care providers authorized to

1 prescribe medications.

2 6. *Definitions.* As used in this section, unless the context
3 otherwise requires:

4 a. "*Older individual*" means older individual as defined in
5 section 231.4.

6 b. "*Orthostatic hypotension*" means a drop in blood pressure
7 during rapid changes in body positioning including but not
8 limited to moving from a sitting to a standing position.

9 c. "*Polypharmacy*" means the prescribing of multiple
10 medications to a patient by a health care provider authorized
11 to prescribe medications and the use of such medications by the
12 patient.

13 Sec. 3. APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated from the
14 general fund of the state to the department of public health
15 for the fiscal period beginning July 1, 2010, and ending
16 June 30, 2013, the following amount or so much thereof as is
17 necessary to be used for the purpose designated:

18 For implementation through an area agency on aging of the
19 fall prevention pilot project as specified in this Act:

20 \$ 100,000

21 EXPLANATION

22 This bill relates to fall prevention among older
23 individuals. The bill directs the department of public
24 health (DPH) to establish a fall prevention pilot project for
25 an initial period of three years, principally directed to
26 older individuals, their families and caregivers, and health
27 care professionals. The purposes of the pilot project are
28 to develop effective strategies to reduce the risk of falls
29 among older individuals and to reduce the injuries and costs
30 associated with such falls. The bill provides goals for the
31 pilot project, elements of the pilot project, provides for
32 implementation of the pilot project by an area agency on aging
33 selected by DPH, and requires annual progress reports and a
34 final report by DPH regarding the pilot project.

35 The bill requires that a contract, policy, or plan providing

1 for third-party payment or prepayment of health or medical
2 expenses shall provide coverage for polypharmacy evaluation.
3 A polypharmacy evaluation must include a medication review,
4 the issuance of a medication review report, and patient
5 notification, and the bill specifies the requirements for
6 each of these elements. The requirement applies to specified
7 classes of third-party payment provider contracts, policies,
8 or plans delivered, issued for delivery, continued, or renewed
9 in this state on or after July 1, 2010. The bill directs the
10 commissioner of insurance to adopt rules pursuant to chapter
11 17A as necessary to administer the bill. In addition to these
12 rules the commissioner of insurance is directed to collaborate
13 with the department of public health to adopt rules to require
14 health care providers who request polypharmacy evaluations to
15 report aggregated patient information to the department of
16 public health to enable the department to assess the costs
17 and benefits of polypharmacy evaluations. The bill defines
18 "polypharmacy" as the prescribing of multiple medications
19 to a patient by a licensed health care provider authorized
20 to prescribe medications and the use by the patient of such
21 medications.

22 The bill appropriates \$100,000 from the general fund of the
23 state to DPH for the three-year pilot program.